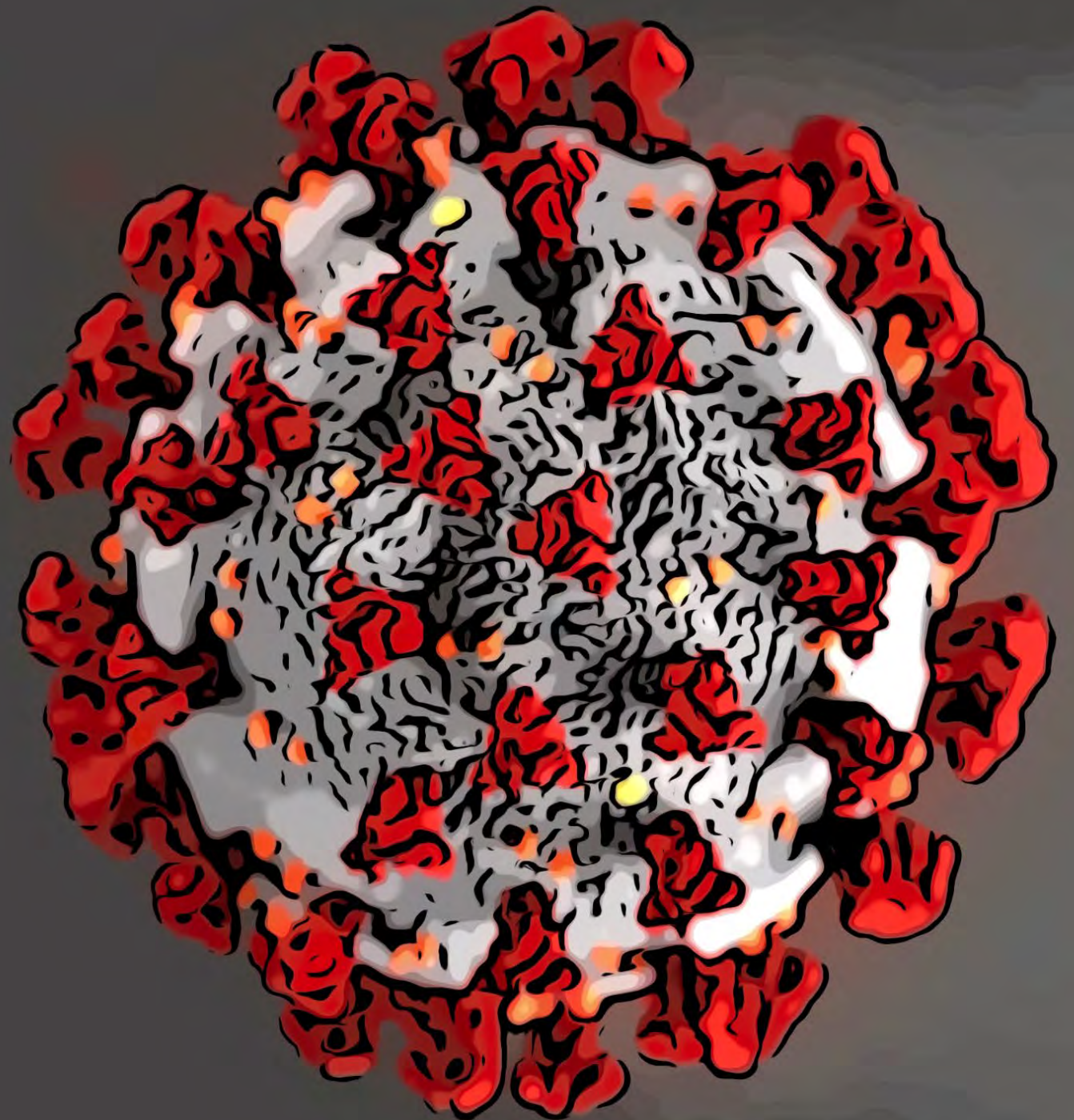


# The Cure



By Jonathan Hartry - Year 8

*On the 22 March 2020...*

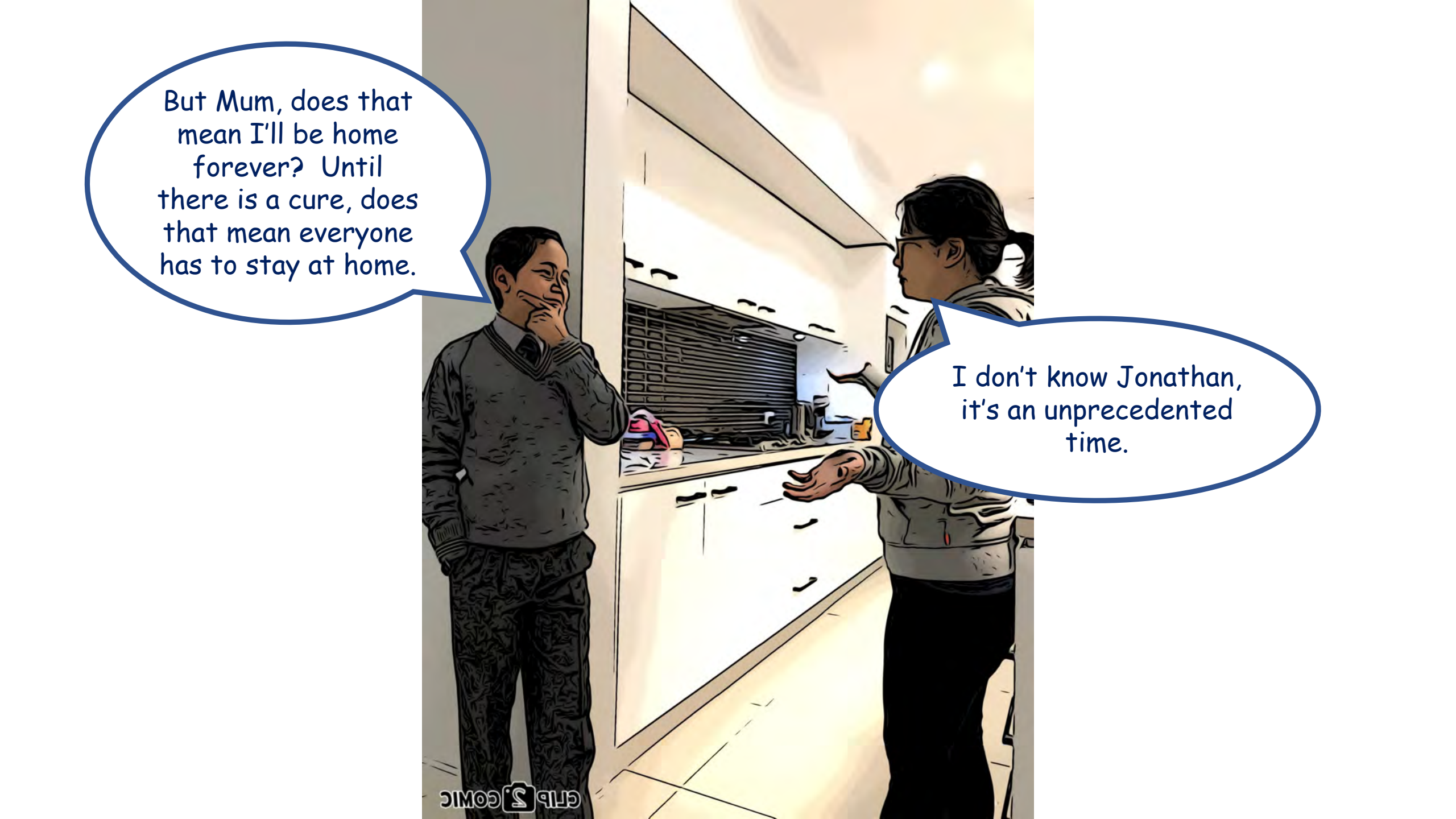
Mum, Australia is going into lockdown next week. Wow, we've never had anything like this happen before.

Well, the Prime Minister ScoMo has declared the Corona Virus a "deadly situation".



No more going to school...woo hoo!!

Not quite, don't get too excited. You'll still have to do stuff from home.



But Mum, does that mean I'll be home forever? Until there is a cure, does that mean everyone has to stay at home.


I don't know Jonathan, it's an unprecedented time.

*A few hours later...*

Kids, we need to come up with a cure for this Covid-19 virus. If there is no cure, we can't ever go out again.

...but I want to see my best friend, Violet.

...but I want to play soccer!



Well, we can't do anything until a cure is found...

Don't be silly Jonathan. You don't need to do anything. There are scientists all around the world working around the clock for a cure. I'm sure they will find one soon. In the meantime, we just need to keep safe.

What do you mean by keeping safe?

We have to wash our hands lots and sing "Happy Birthday to me" two times..

That's right Emma, we also need to make sure we stay away from others. It's called social distancing.



Talking to Mum who is busy in the kitchen


What about wearing face masks?

I don't know if that helps but it can't hurt to wear them. But we don't actually have any so I'll have to sew some.

Leave it up to me, I'll make some. Come on kids, let's get some stuff together.



Watching a YouTube video...



Look Oliver, I found this YouTube video that says you can make face masks out of socks? And you don't even have to know how to sew.

What? That's so cool. I reckon we can make some for Mum, Dad and ourselves. We just need to find some socks!

The kids start the search for socks...

Don't you dare cut my socks up. I need to wear them for soccer!

Far out, you guys are hopeless. I'll use some of mine.

My socks are too little.

Jonathan  
in his  
room by  
himself  
watching  
YouTube...

This sock making thing  
is easy. I just need  
some socks but all mine  
are dirty. Never mind,  
no one will know.....



*Jonathan in his room  
late at night, having  
made a face mask with a  
pair of his stinky socks...*



These are  
awesome! Wait till  
I show the family.

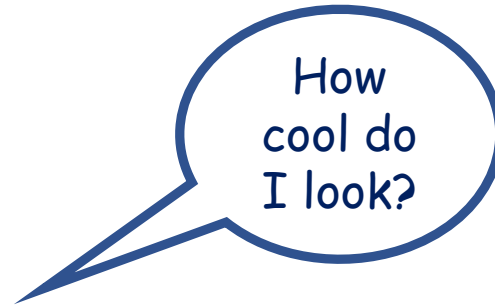
The next morning at the crack of dawn, a very excited Jonathan showed off his handiwork...



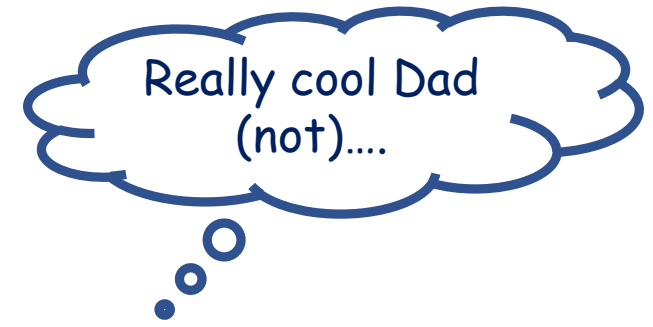
Look at these face masks. We can use these if we need to go out.

Actually, can I wear one now? I have a headache and a runny nose and I don't want to get anyone sick.

Sure thing Dad, here you go.



How  
cool do  
I look?



Really cool Dad  
(not)....


5 minutes later, Dad still with his mask on...

Man, I feel really really good. My headache is gone, I don't have a runny nose anymore and I feel better than I've felt for years.

I guess the Panadol you've taken has worked then.

But I haven't taken any medicine yet. I was going to do that during breakfast....

Maybe you just felt better for no reason!



I don't know. It's bizarre, but I'm not complaining. Anyway, thanks for the face mask. Can I please have the other one you made? I want to take one to our GP when I see him later for my flu shot. He may need one as he will be seeing a lot of patients.

Sure, here you go, take one.

Oh no, it's made from my stinky sock but I can't say anything now. Dad will flip out.




Later in the day, Dad is at the doctors...

Here you go Dr Koop, here is a face mask my son made.

Thanks Nick. What a nice thing to do. Please tell Jonathan I said thank you.




*15 minutes late, Dr Koop is seeing another patient...*



Fred, if you need to get tested for Corona Virus, I need to call the hospital. I'll be back in a minute.


*Whilst Dr Koop has left the room Fred takes the face mask and puts it on. Dr Koop returns...*




Fred, why have you put my mask on?



Aaaahhh, sorry, I thought it was free.



That's OK, I haven't used it yet. Another patient gave it to me just now. Can you tell me what your symptoms were again?



Well, I had a sore throat, a headache, a cough and a runny nose. And I've had difficulty breathing. But, that all seems to have disappeared since I put your face mask on.

WHAT????? That can't be....it's impossible.

But it's true. Why would I lie about it?

*Dr Koop examines Fred again and it does appear that all his symptoms have gone.*



Dr Koop realises that the face mask has magical powers - he investigates what it may be. He looks at the mask under a microscope.



It looks like it might be a cure for the virus...

Dr Koop on the phone to Nick...

Any idea what was on the mask? It appears to be curing the common cold as well as Corona Virus? Was it special washing powder that was used?

No idea, but I don't think so. It was just a normal sock I believe. I'll talk to Jonathan about it.





*Jonathan overhears the phone conversation and is worried that he is in deep, deep trouble...*

Did you spray something on the sock? Dr Koop wants to know.

uuuummmm, no. I didn't do anything wrong...it's, it's, oh it's nothing.



*Half an hour later of lots of questions and false answers, Jonathan confesses that it was just a normal dirty sock...and it turns out they were last worn at the Oxford Falls sports day.*

*It turns out the socks got contaminated with the new fertilizer that the groundskeeper was using. The fertilizer contained a chemical compound which when mixed with human sweat, created a disinfectant that has the ability to kill the Corona Virus.*



I only fell over a few times in the mud. They're not that dirty!

*Dr Koop sends the face mask to the University of Sydney - they test it and it appears to be a miracle cure. They test the vaccine and worked out that it definitely works on curing humans and set about mass producing this for use in Australia.*



Back at home...

Your stinky feet has saved all of mankind. I wonder if my feet could do the same?

Good job I never wash them then, otherwise the cure wouldn't have been found.

I always knew your stinky socks were smelly enough to kill something!

*Jonathan is declared an (accidental) hero - the slayer of Corona Virus. He doesn't really care though; he is just happy that he is allowed out to go back to school (not)!*





# The end

## Bibliography

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